



Complete Summary

TITLE

Oncology: percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer who have undergone brachytherapy or external beam radiation therapy who have a treatment summary report in the chart that was communicated to physician(s) providing continuing care and to the patient within one month completing treatment.

SOURCE(S)

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Oncology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2008 Jun. 48 p. [16 references]

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer who have undergone brachytherapy or external beam radiation therapy who have a treatment summary report in the chart that was communicated to physician(s) providing continuing care and to the patient within one month completing treatment.

RATIONALE

Timely, accurate, and effective communications are critical to quality and value in contemporary medical practices. As both a consultant oncologist and the provider

of radiation oncology services, the radiation oncologist has a dual role. Radiation therapy incorporates the science of complex, integrated treatment delivery and the art of individual cancer management. Through written focused reports and direct communications, the contribution of radiation oncologists concerning patient care, responsible utilization, and quality are provided, especially to primary care physicians, other oncologists and specialists, and allied healthcare providers (nurses, tumor registrars, quality assurance personnel, third-party reviewers, etc).* (American College of Radiology [ACR])

*The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

A summary should be generated that accurately describes the treatment process, the doses delivered to the target/tumor volume and other key organs, relevant assessment of tolerance to and progress towards the treatment goals, and subsequent care plans. The style will reflect the radiation oncologist's individual practice convention and the referral provider's needs. The style, content, and detail of this summary must be tailored to the clinical setting and prevailing practice norms. It should contain elements that accurately and succinctly reflect the program of care administered in a language understandable to the nonradiation oncologist. It is suggested that, the report to the referring physician include a request for periodic updates on the patient's progress. These updates will facilitate continuity of care should the patient require further radiation therapy. (ACR)

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Cancer; brachytherapy; external beam radiation therapy; treatment summary

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer who have undergone brachytherapy or external beam radiation therapy (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Patients who have a treatment summary report in the chart that was communicated to the physician(s) providing continuing care and to the patient within one month of completing treatment (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

TARGET POPULATION AGE

All patients, regardless of age

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better
Living with Illness

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness
Patient-centeredness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer who have undergone brachytherapy or external beam radiation therapy

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

All patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer who have undergone brachytherapy or external beam radiation therapy

Exclusions

- Documentation of a patient reason(s) for not communicating the treatment summary report to the physician(s) providing continuing care (e.g., patient requests that report not be sent) and to the patient within one month of completing treatment

- Documentation of a system reason(s) for not communicating the treatment summary report to the physician(s) providing continuing care (e.g., patient does not have any physician responsible for providing continuing care) and to the patient within one month of completing treatment

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Therapeutic Intervention

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window brackets index event

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Patients who have a treatment summary* report in the chart that was communicated to the physician(s) providing continuing care and to the patient within one month of completing treatment

**Treatment Summary definition* - a report that includes mention of all of the following components: 1) dose delivered; 2) relevant assessment of tolerance to and progress towards the treatment goals; and 3) subsequent care plans.

Exclusions

None

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure**SCORING**

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties**EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

Identifying Information**ORIGINAL TITLE**

Measure #6: treatment summary communication - radiation oncology.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Oncology Physician Performance Measurement Set](#)

SUBMITTER

American Medical Association on behalf of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

DEVELOPER

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FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

INCLUDED IN

Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2007 Oct

REVISION DATE

2008 Jun

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Oncology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2008 Jun. 48 p. [16 references]

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Measure #6: Treatment Summary Communication - Radiation Oncology," is published in the "Oncology Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site: www.physicianconsortium.org.

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at cqi@ama-assn.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on September 8, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on October 16, 2008.

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